

Claims

- [c1] A method comprising:
 - providing a plurality of pins routed together on a net, wherein each pin has an current value;
 - calculating a current requirement for each track segment of the net;
 - determining a track width for each track segment using a current density function; and
 - performing an automated routing of a first track segment of the net, wherein the automatically routed first track segment has a track width as previously determined using the current density function.
- [c2] The method of claim 1 wherein the current density function is provided using a current density table comprising current density as a function of at least one of layer, net frequency, or track width.
- [c3] The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - providing a frequency of the net and the calculating a current requirement for each track segment of the net takes into account the frequency.
- [c4] The method of claim 1 wherein performing an auto-

mated routing of a first track segment of the net comprises using a Steiner tree algorithm.

- [c5] The method of claim 1 further comprising:
generating a Steiner tree for the net.
- [c6] The method of claim 1
wherein calculating a current requirement for each track segment of the net comprises:
finding a pin of the net with the largest current value and setting as a main driver pin;
setting the largest current value as a current requirement for a second track segment connected to the main driver pin, wherein the second track segment is connected to third and fourth track segments at one point; and
setting a current requirement for a third track segment as a sum of the largest current value and a current requirement for the fourth track segment.
- [c7] The method of claim 1 wherein calculating a current requirement for each track segment of the net comprises:
providing a first pin having a first current value connected to a second track segment of the net;
providing a second pin having a second current value connected to a third track segment of the net, wherein the second and third track segments are connected;
setting the first current value as a current requirement

for the second track segment;
setting the second current value as a current requirement for the third track segment;
providing a fourth segment connecting to the second and third track segments; and
setting a sum of the first and second current values as a current requirement for the fourth track segment.

- [c8] The method of claim 1 performing an automated routing of a second track segment of the net, wherein the automatically routed second track segment has a track width as previously determined using the current density function, and the track width of the second track segment is different from the track width of the first track segment.
- [c9] The method of claim 1 wherein the net is provided in a gridless layout of an integrated circuit design.
- [c10] The method of claim 1 wherein the net is provided in a gridded layout of an integrated circuit design.
- [c11] The method of claim 1 wherein performing an automated routing of a first track segment of the net comprises:
 - providing pins of the net;
 - forming a grid based on positions of the pins;
 - finding a first route path to connect the pins using the

grid; and
routing around an obstacle in the first route path using
an unobstructed path, wherein the unobstructed path is
not on the grid.

- [c12] The method of claim 11 wherein forming a grid based on positions of the pins occurs after the pins are provided.
- [c13] A method comprising:
 - providing a gridless layout of a circuit design;
 - providing a plurality of pins of the gridless layout to be routed together using a net;
 - providing a track width for each track segment of the net; and
 - performing an automated routing of a first track segment of the net in the gridless layout, wherein the automatically routed first track segment has a first track width as provided.
- [c14] The method of claim 13 further comprising:
 - performing an automated routing of a second track segment of the net in the gridless layout, wherein the automatically routed second track segment has a second track width as provided, and the second track width is different from the first track width.
- [c15] The method of claim 13 wherein performing an auto-

mated routing of a first track segment comprises:
forming a grid based on positions of the pins;
finding a first route path to connect the pins using the
grid; and
routing around an obstacle in the first route path using
an unobstructed path, wherein the unobstructed path is
not on the grid.

- [c16] A method comprising:
- providing a plurality of pins of a layout to be routed together using a net;
- creating a Steiner tree for the net including a rule to treat a segment of the layout represented as a number terminal connected to each other, wherein these connections cannot be broken during automated routing;
- providing a track width for each track segment of the net; and
- using the Steiner tree, performing an automated routing of a first track segment of the net in the gridless layout, wherein the automatically routed first track segment has a first track width as provided.

- [c17] The method of claim 16
wherein the rule is replaced by a rule that for shaped items, points at the center and around the perimeter where the perimeter intersects a Hanan grid are added.

- [c18] The method of claim 16 wherein the rule is replaced by a rule that all points belonging to the same subnet will be connected together, so the automated routing will not attempt to disconnect these points.
- [c19] The method of claim 16 wherein the rule is replaced by a rule that for subpins in the same group that are not connected by an arc, the points for each pin will be replaced by a single point at the center of the subpin.
- [c20] The method of claim 16 wherein the rule is replaced by a rule that for subpins that are connected by an arc, both pins will be represented as connected by a forced connection.
- [c21] The method of claim 16 wherein the rule is replaced by a rule that buried pins are represented by a point outside a blockage where a first legal routing pitch would be.
- [c22] The method of claim 16 wherein the rule is replaced by a rule that a MOS transistor is modeled where its gate is single pin.